

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

April 13, 2015

Minutes are subject to corrections and approval

Pursuant to recess, the Alger County Board of Commissioners convened in the conference room of the county building at 4:04 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doucette with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Absent . Commissioner Pullen.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. There was no public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The consent agenda was presented.

Commissioner Pullen arrived at 4:05 p.m.

It was the consensus of the board to look at the minutes and make a motion at the next regular board meeting.

Bids for Alger County IT Managed Services were opened. The first bid was from 906 Technologies based in Marquette at \$2,600 per month. Lee Francisco, CEO and Founder of 906 Technologies, was present to discuss the bid. He said that this figure does not include software or hardware throughout the year. Price assumes one trip down to Munising per week plus remote service. 906 Technologies is HIPAA compliant, manage other counties in the U.P. and are confident of their capabilities. The second of two bids was Alger County's current IT support company, Compudyne. Jeff Nemacheck, from Compudyne was present to discuss their bid. He said that they have been with Alger County since 2007 and meets with the county treasurer, clerk, and sheriff yearly. They have not had any complaints, and would like to continue service. Everything is recorded and available anytime. Both Lee and Jeff went into detail and explained their bids.

Next, bids for a Construction Manager for the new jail were opened. Sgt. Webber explained that there was a deadline in place for bids. He said that the bids will be reviewed and each contractor will be given an hour to explain their proposal. There will be a jail meeting on Wednesday April 15, 2015 to look over the proposals. A special jail meeting is scheduled for Friday April 17, 2015 starting at 8:00 a.m. to meet with the contractors. At the regular board meeting on Monday April 20, 2015 the bid is supposed to be awarded. It was discussed that once the general contractor is decided; the local contractors can be picked. The bids that were opened were from the following companies: Hall Construction, Gundlach Champion, Cross General Contracting, Inc., and DeVere Construction Company.

Tom Dykowski from Golder & Associates was present to clarify the Alger County Solid Waste Plan. Conceptual plans for landfill were handed out to the commissioners. He said that the plan is close to submittal for state approval. He said that some criteria concerning the groundwater recharge is unenforceable. Tom stated that no county could satisfy the wording. He said that the siting criteria for sites in Alger County's plan is more stringent than the state's criteria. The county plan stipulates 1,000 feet from houses, whereas the State of Michigan requires 300 feet. Alger County calls for 500 feet from property lines, when Michigan guidelines call for 100 feet. Alger County is also requiring that the landfill be at least 500 feet from the lake where the state is only 400 feet. Mr. Dykowski is requesting a letter to the State of Michigan on the siting criteria. He is also requesting a letter to Golder & Associates stating that siting criteria has been met and is consistent with the Solid Waste Plan. A consensus was reached. A letter from Marquette County concerning the same criteria being removed was included in the packet.

Pat Suboski was present to discuss the Equalization L-4024 Report which the board must adopt if they agree with the assessor's numbers. Pat said that the total real property number is a 2.14% increase over 2014. The personal real property shows 4.3% increase over 2014 and that there is a 2.31% increase over the 2014 total real and personal property values. He recommends that the board adopt the county's equalized values for 2015. A consensus was reached by the board of commissioners. Pat further elaborated on the process, stating that in 1994 Proposal A changed the procedure on state equalized values. Tax rolls used to be made on state assessed values. However; after the 1994 tax law changes, that is now based on taxable value. Since 1995, taxable values cannot increase more than inflation (capped value). Commissioner Pullen expressed appreciation for Mr. Suboski's hard work as well as Joe Cilc.

Joe Cilc was not present to discuss the demolition of the Long Branch Saloon in Trenary.

There was discussion on the resolution authorizing publication of Notice of Intent to Issue Capital Improvement Bonds and Declaring Intent to Reimburse. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Notice and Intent.

There was discussion regarding GEI Consultants of Michigan, P.C. doing a site survey in the amount of \$6,300. The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) approval is needed before the new jail construction can progress. The site must be inspected for hazardous materials, underground pipes/lines, etc. Bob VanPutten was contacted by Sgt. Webber inquiring about price, future cost, and specifications. Commissioner Mattson's main concern is a public hearing (to comply with the City of Munising's letter), which will be scheduled next month. Mary Ann Froberg will put a notice of hearing in the Munising News and the Alger County Shopper. There was a consensus by the board to authorize GEI Consultants to do the site survey work.

There was discussion on authorizing the sheriff to purchase a new heavy duty winch for the tracked vehicle for rescue in the amount of \$980. The last big snow storm trapped a gentlemen out on Murray's Bay. He was contacted by cellphone and told to stay where he was. The tracked vehicle did get stuck in slush and the smaller winch broke. The rescue crew suggested a heavier winch. The old winch will be remounted to the front of the vehicle and will be removable. There was a consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to purchase a new winch from Skip's Auto Repair LLC in the amount of \$980. The monies are to come from rescue supplies in the ambulance fund.

There was discussion on authorizing the sheriff to purchase three additional pagers for the ambulance service in the amount of \$1,438.48. These pagers will make on-call rotations easier for employees and volunteers. The sheriff said that the current pagers were issued under a grant so, if approved, these new pagers will be the first ones purchased. The sheriff said that the prices are per the state purchase price agreement and would not be any lower if they were bid out. The price per pager is \$476.16 plus \$10 shipping for a total price of \$1,438.48. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to purchase three additional pagers for the ambulance service. The monies are to come from rescue supplies in the ambulance fund.

There was discussion on a meal vehicle. Sheriff Hughes said that he has been looking for a surplus vehicle. The sheriff said that he has to go through the Department of Technology, Management and Budget. He found a 2008 minivan down in Indiana with 61,000 miles. He said that the DTMB requires a 10% finder's fee of the vehicle cost, which was \$2,100. Sheriff Hughes let the vehicle go. He is asking for a capped budgeted amount that the Undersheriff or Sheriff is free to use to purchase a vehicle. The Sheriff said that he is looking long range at inevitably replacing the current jail meals vehicle. Commissioner Mattson expressed that with the jail expansion there will be greater need for a meal vehicle. Sgt. Webber said the inmate meals vehicle should be exclusively used for meal delivery. The funds are to come from the jail inmate meals line item (101-351-741.010). Sheriff Hughes said it took over a year and half to find a vehicle that the County qualifies for. Commissioner Rondeau asked since the jail will house state inmates, could the State of Michigan help locate or qualify for a vehicle. Sheriff Hughes said that he will continue to look with a \$2,500 figure in mind. Commissioner Rondeau suggested attending a state auction. There was discussion on maybe the state would get a vehicle for us and that we would reimburse the state. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to keep looking for a meal vehicle with a cost of \$2,500.

There was discussion on a Social Media Policy for the County. Sheriff Hughes said that he supplied a social media packet for the Board of Commissioners to review. He said that the policy came from MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority) and he tweaked it a little bit. The board is to review the policy and make any changes they feel would work for the county.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next. Sheriff Hughes commented on the jail meeting and concern over the jail expansion and a public hearing. He said that housing state inmates will supply a significant revenue increase. He also discussed housing Luce County inmates. Sgt. Webber discussed that housing inmates comes with an increase in staffing and utility costs.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Pathways for their quarterly mental health appropriation in the amount of \$8,305. Those monies are to come from their appropriation (101-649-969.000).

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee. Commissioner VanLandschoot commented that receipts for meals from last month had been received.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the financial reports for all funds. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to create Fund #466 Jail Building Fund. Commissioner Pullen asked about the DTR Fund.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There was discussion on resolution #2015-04 Code Association Annual Conference. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the chair to sign the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2015-04

WHEREAS, most counties in the State of Michigan have a Construction Code Department to serve residents and contractors engaging in construction projects within their county; and

WHEREAS, the Code Association Conference of Michigan, Northern Michigan Code Officials, Plumbing Inspectors Association of Michigan, Mechanical Inspectors Association of Michigan and International Association of Electrical Inspectors have annual conferences which feature important and required training and certification opportunities for the individual inspectors; and

WHEREAS, the leadership for the inspector association has chosen to hold the conference in September or October; and

WHEREAS, September through early December happens to be crunch time for homeowners and contractors seeking inspections from the Construction Code Departments throughout the State and is a time when the weather can make a difference in whether or not the job gets completed by winter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Alger County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests, in the future, that the leadership of the inspector associations make it a policy to hold their associations' annual conference between late December and the end of March thereby providing better service to those constituents engaged in construction projects throughout the counties of Michigan.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to the Code Association Conference of Michigan, Northern Michigan Code Officials, Plumbing Inspectors Association of Michigan, Mechanical Inspectors Association of Michigan, International Association of Electrical Inspectors, and the other 82 counties.

Dated: April 20, 2015

Jerry Doucette, Chair
Alger County Board of Commissioners

There was discussion on resolution #2015-05 Oppose SB 1123 & 1124. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the chair to sign the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2015-05

OPPOSE SB 1123 & 1124

WHEREAS, Alger County may become a location of some wind energy developments in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, local control of the placement and monitoring of these utility scale wind developments is crucial for local townships and counties; and

WHEREAS, the administration of local zoning is a key component of local government, reflecting local inputs, local control, and local leadership; and

WHEREAS, these local controls would be limited by SB 1123 & 1124; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes SB 1123 & 1124 and any legislation that would limit, hinder, or eliminate local control of zoning administration and implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senator Tom Casperson, Representative John Kivela, Governor Rick Snyder, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Dated: April 20, 2015

Jerry Doucette, Chair
Alger County Board of Commissioners

There was discussion on two other resolutions. One was for immunizing and one was for Proposal 1. The board remained neutral on those resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot stated Rod Desjardins is performing very well filling in for Amy Lerlie. Commissioner Rondeau met with Stacey Welling Haughey, Brian Raul and Doug Scheuneman at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), concerning the airport land swap. The DNR would like a letter of support from the county to send to Lansing. Commissioner Rondeau said that he met with Dan Blough from Benishek's office in Marquette and explained that firewood lots for Alger County are in the works. He said that 25% of the wood is being cut and they would like to get it to 80%. He said that they are working on changing the regulations. He said that Hiawatha is one of the worst managed federal forests. Dan Benishek is working to change regulations. He also said that the DNR is sharing a goose refuge with 11 farmers in our area. Commissioner Pullen stated ALTRAN received their check for the burned building. She said that they don't want to rebuild exactly what was burned. They will put the check in an account until they decide what they want. She said that no one wants anything to do with the burned buses and that they are only good for scrap. She said that the state may be able to help replace the burned buses.

Correspondence was briefly read starting with the Central Upper Peninsula Planning And Development Regional Commission's (CUPPAD) review of the proposed Alger County Jail Addition / Renovation project; Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) distribution of excess net assets; Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) member representative responsibilities and designees; Notice of Intent re: Laughing Whitefish Falls Scenic Site Observation Deck and Pathways Improvement; USDA re: Hiawatha National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions Report Quarter 3, 2015; and LMAS District Board of Health February 2, 2015 Minutes. These will be placed in the meeting file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Mattson went to present the Officer of the Year award. He said that the officer was out sick and that they asked to wait to present it at the next meeting. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that he was impressed with the office for ALTRAN at the LMAS building. He said it was very nice to see the progress they are making, and that Rochelle expressed her appreciation to the board for offering the new site. Commissioner Doucette said that he spent some time in Lansing with the Marquette County Administrator, Scott Erbisch. Mr. Erbisch told Commissioner Doucette he could sit down with the Alger County Board of Commissioners to help in any way he can with a plan for administrative problems.

Staff comments were next. There were none.

Public comment session was open. There was no public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk